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(7 - 20 April 1953)

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IDEOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

Vigilance: The unprecedented reversal on the "doctors' plot" has been followed with a heavy publicity on the rights of the individual citizen, the inviolability of personal rights, immunity from unlawful arrest, etc. Individual freedom under the constitution, it is implied, is not inconsistent with continued vigilance since capitalist ideology has not yet been entirely exterminated and since certain elements are still exerting great efforts "to revive and support hostile capitalist encirclement" (ozhivlyat i podderzhivat vrazhdebnoye kapitalisticheskoye okruzhenie). Reiterating the familiar warning that "we are not guaranteed" (my ne zastrakhovany) against the infiltration of alien views from abroad, the paper also urges its readers not to lose sight of "careerists and degenerates" (karyeristy i pererozhdentsy) of the Ryumin type who would "inflame profoundly alien feelings" of nationalist hostility.

PRAVDA's editorial of 6 April reaffirming the "inalienable rights" (neotyemlevie prava) of the Soviet citizen was reproduced verbatim by all central newspapers and RADIANSKA UKRAINA but was given virtually no publicity in regional broadcasts. Quotations from this editorial appeared in some regional broadcasts without comment and in different contexts. IZVESTIA's editorial comment on the subject (9 April) is that the full scope of individual freedom enjoyed in the Soviet Union can be better appreciated when compared to the vaunted "false liberty" (falshivaya svoboda) under bourgeois democracy. Soviet citizens, it points out, are assured "inviolability of the person, inviolability of the home and secrecy of correspondence" (neprikosnovennost lichnosti, neprikosnovennost zhilishcha i taina perepiski).

Sharper political vigilance is counseled in a Home Service talk by Semenov (9 April.) The aspiration of the imperialist states to deprive us of our attainments requires constant vigilance, since the "ideological instability" (ideologicheskaya neustoiichivost) of certain elements, "career seekers and political turncoats," provides fertile soil for the hostile capitalist world.

A SEVERNAYA PRAVDA editorial transmitted from Kostroma on 14 April stresses the need for ideological vigilance "under any conditions" (v lubykh usloviakh) and says that there is no difference between enemy agents from abroad and unstable domestic elements who "are a treasure for the enemies." The Soviet people must always bear in mind that Communism in the USSR is being built under conditions of hostile capitalist encirclement and that hostility demands constant vigilance:

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The first commandment of our policy, the first lesson to be learned by the Soviet worker and peasant is to be on guard and remember that we are surrounded by people, classes and governments who openly display their greatest hatred for us.

Russian text:

Pervoy zapovedyu nashey politiki, pervym urokom kotoriy dolzhny usvoit sovetskiy rabochiy i krestyanin eto byt nacheku i pomnit to, chto my okruzheny ludmi, klassami i pravitelstvami kotorie otkryto vyrazhayut valichaishuyu nenavist k nam.

The implicit admission that alien views and "survivals of the past" are not confined to adults is contained in a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA review given on the Home Service on 16 April. The Komsomols are exhorted to keep a watchful eye over the younger generation and help mould its political character. The ideological foundation of Komsomol work among the youth must be brought into sharper focus, and discernible political aberrations must be remedied by intensified indoctrination in the Lenin-Stalin gospel:

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While instilling in boys and girls the high qualities of Soviet patriots, and consolidating Communist morale, the youth newspaper is at the same time called upon to struggle persistently against the survivals of the past and to expose the slightest manifestation of alien ideology.

Russian text:

Vospityvaya v unoshakh i devushkakh vysokoye kachestvo sovetskikh patriotov, ukreplyaya kommunisticheskiy moral, molodezhnaya gazeta obyazana v eto vremya nastoichivo borotsya s perezhitkami proshlogo, razoblachat maleysheye proyavlenie chuzhdoy nam ideologii.

The idiotic disease of political carelessness must be eliminated once and for all, says KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA editorially on 15 April. Too many people are too quick to forget that the United States, "the center of reaction and aggression," is bent on obstructing the building of a Communist society, and that "vigilance against warmongers is one of the foremost tasks of our internal policy." The Soviet people are therefore urged "to exercise the highest political alertness" and cautioned against the disclosure of Party and State secrets to unauthorized persons.

Russo-Ukrainian Friendship: RADYANSKAY UKRAINA (16 April) complains that the Ukrainian intelligentsia is not doing its share to expand friendship with the Great Russian "elder brother." It has been noted "on more than one occasion" that the Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, for example, is not sufficiently appreciative of "the beneficial and decisive influence" of Russian literature. The Institute has not produced a single "serious work" exposing bourgeois-nationalist views as inimical to the Republic's interest, and the Academy's journal is said to have virtually neglected the friendship-of-peoples theme. This attitude toward Russo-Ukrainian relations also appears to be true of certain newspapers which are in the habit of "brushing away" any propaganda of friendship. CHERVONY PRAPOR (Rovno Oblast) and PRAPOR PEREMOGI (Voroshilovgrad Oblast) are referred to as the most glaring examples of "intolerable manifestations," but no further details are offered.

The Ukrainian SSR, says CHERNOMORSKA KOMMUNA on 15 April, has reached its present high level of unification and prosperity through the wise leadership of the Party and the "disinterested assistance" of the Great Russian people. In the realization of the high purpose of continued friendship of peoples,

the Party is conducting a merciless fight against any deviation from the Lenin-Stalin nationality policy and the principle of proletarian internationalism.

The Soviet family of nations has become "a model of equality and friendship" that will never be undermined by "despicable adventurers of the Ryumin type" who are trying to stir up national antagonism.

A Ukrainian press review broadcast from Kiev on 15 April reports an exchange of letters between two Ukrainians, one living in Canada and the other in the USSR, which reveals the good fortune of Ukrainian residents "under the star of Soviet power."

Inadequate Ideological Instruction: Although improper ideological instruction is frequently criticized, improvements have been achieved, according to ZNAMYA KOMMUNIZMA of 8 April, but they cannot be called "decisive" (reshitelnie). The "formalistic approach" to ideological education at the higher educational institutions "has not been extirpated." Formalism also is said to prevent the Komsomol organizations from exerting the proper dialectical influence on their educated colleagues. That, says the paper, brings up the question of "raising the level" (povyshenie urovnya) of Komsomol leadership before the other ideological

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issues can be tackled. Marxist-Leninist theory calls for a great deal more attention than it is getting at the evening universities of Nikolayev, Proskurov, Rovno and Kirovograd oblasts, says RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 15 April. The long-condemned "Talmudist and scholastic" approach to the study of basic Communist dogma still employed by university lecturers accounts for the students' slow progress (pogana uspishnist) and superficial knowledge of Marxism: CPYRGHT

We must completely eliminate Talmudism and scholasticism from instruction of Marxist-Leninist theory and see to it that lectures at the evening universities are raised to a high level....

Ukrainian version:

Treba do kintsya vyshyty talmudism i nachotnichesivo u vyvchenni marksistsko-leninskoi teorii, dobytysya, sehob usi lektsii u vechirnikh univesytetakh chytalysya na vysokomu teorytychnomu rivni...

At the Nikopol and Kherson evening universities the lectures on political economy and the history of the Party are "dull and inconsistent" (sukhi, neposlidovni). Ideological carelessness is seen as the source of "incorrect formulation of certain theoretical theses" (netochni formulyuvannya okremykh teoretychnykh polozhen). Uninspiring theoretical instruction at the Uzhgorod and Zaporozhye evening universities is said to have made attendance highly irregular, and many students had to be expelled for "systematic failure to make the grade" (systematichna nezdacha zalikiv).

A broadcast from Kostroma (18 April) quotes one of the local Party officials as saying that the ideological level of education is "very low," not only among the masses but also at the evening universities and other institutions. Thousands of people in the oblast are studying Marxism-Leninism at political schools, universities and elsewhere but "the ideological tenor of these theoretical studies" suggests that there is much room for improvement "in all spheres" of Party and Komsomol enlightenment.

Ideology in Science: An IZVESTIA article by Academician Biryukov (15 April, not broadcast) reveals that efforts to channelize the thinking of Soviet physiologists along the lines outlined in Pavlov's theory has been only partially successful. Academician Orbeli and Professor Anokhin, it is intimated, have merely been paying lip service to the Pavlov theory while actually betraying a belief in the views held by such foreign "idealist physiologists" (fiziologi-idealisti) as Gering, Sherrington and others. Orbeli figured prominently in the 1949 purge of scientists when he was publicly attacked and denounced for trucking to foreign influences. He subsequently admitted "the error of his ways" and pleaded for forgiveness, but his name has not been mentioned since then. The academician is now reminded by Biryukov that although he "had promised to take steps to correct his errors," his present views on physiology are "very odd" (osobenno stranniye). He has done very little in the past three years to prove his change of mind.

It is also revealed that the USSR Academy of Sciences has repeatedly tried "to help the academician out of his erroneous position" (pomoch akademiku soyti s oshibchoy pozitsii) and put him back on the "materialist Pavlov road." It now appears, however, that "Orbeli's profoundly vicious ideological views prevent him from grasping the essence of his errors" (gluboko porochnie metodologicheskie pozitsii Orbeli meshayut yemu osoznat sushchestvo svoikh oshibok.)

Professor P.K. Anokhin, Biryukov goes on to say, "has also departed from the objective methods of research" (takzhe otoshel ot obyektivnogo puti issledovaniy). He even took it upon himself "to revise and alter" certain basic concepts of the Pavlov theory. Biryukov accuses Anokhin of using certain indisputable (besspornie) Pavlovite theses to attack other aspects of his theory:

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That revealed his desire...to transplant to our soil certain foreign idealistic views.

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Russian version:

Eto obnaruzhilo ego stremlenie...perenesti na nashu pochvu nekotorie zarubezhnie idealisticheskie vzglyady.

Academician Beritashvili is said to have expressed the belief that the conditioned-reflex method is useful only insofar as the study of nervous activity is concerned, and that broader research would necessitate the employment of "psychoneurotic" (psikho-nervnye) processes. This "openly dual position" (neprikrytaya dualisticheskaya pozitsiya) is said to reflect strongly on the academician's anti-materialist philosophy which appears to recognize the existence of a soul as well as a body. Such views have led Beritashvili to the conclusion that the conditioned-reflex method must be "supplemented" (dopolnyat) by subjective research methods.

Academician Biryukov concludes with a plea for "ruthless and systematic exposure" (besposhchadnoye i posledovatelnoye razoblachenie) of the idealistic and subjectivist views held by foreign scientists, and for the admission that Soviet science itself is not untainted by such views. Every Soviet scientist must fight against the wrong attitude still held by "certain representatives of Soviet physiology."

Ideology in the Arts: A target of frequent official attacks, this subject gets comparatively little attention in the period reviewed. A summarized report broadcast from Kiev on 12 April speaks of the preparations for the 300th anniversary of Russo-Ukrainian unification by the Ukrainian Composers Union. A plenary meeting recently held by that organization to review the Republic's achievements in the field of arts to date is said to have brought to light unspecified "grave shortcomings" in the work of the Ukrainian composers. A ZARYA VOSTOKA editorial transmitted from Tbilisi on 14 April criticizes "mediocre, dull and even slipshod" works of art which do not reflect the real life of the "Soviet man" and fail to satisfy the fastidious taste of the people.

Georgian artists, it is claimed, "frequently miss the main point" by undue concentration on minor and secondary effects. A hint that the much criticized "no-conflict theory" (teoriya bezkonfliktnosti) is still subscribed to by some Georgian artists is seen in the paper's complaint that "difficulties of life and inconsistencies" are frequently by-passed in favor of harmony, which is not the right "approach" (podkhod) for a true Soviet artist. Another old failing calling for immediate remedial measures is "the absence of an exchange of views" among the Georgian artists and their careful avoidance of genuine criticism and self-criticism: "Criticism, if it exists, is either studied or flattering."

Other ideological shortcomings: A Zhukov article published in KOMMUNA on 9 April lists a number of "substantial shortcomings" in the propaganda activities of Voronezh Oblast. Cited in this connection are the lectures on the gradual transitions from Socialism to Communism delivered by Communist Berezhutko of the Oblast Lecture Bureau. He is said to interpret current issues of Communist construction

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in such a way that Communism appears to the students to be in the distant future, a thing about which it is only possible to speak theoretically.

The practice of discriminating against women in Government and Party life is occasionally mentioned in radio discussions as applying to the peripheral non-Russian republics and autonomous areas. In the past, the status of women in the Kazakh and Uzbek SSRs has been the object of frequent editorial discussion, the weight of official criticism having been directed against such "survivals of the

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bey and khan era" as the marriage of minors and the prevention of young girls from completing their minimum education. A STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial broadcast on 16 April inveighs against the "peculiar attitude" toward women in the Cherkess Autonomous Oblast. There is in fact some discrimination against the non-Russian male population of that oblast, with the greater Russians presumably doing the discriminating:

The promotion of women to leading posts is being poorly conducted. Cadres from local nationalities are not being promoted to leading posts to a sufficient extent in the Cherkess Autonomous Oblast.

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Republican government reorganizations along the lines of the USSR Government have already been announced from at least six republics, and their new and expanded ministries listed. In his speech on revamping the government of Georgian SSR, broadcast on 16 April, the new chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers, Bakradze, reveals that a purge of the higher echelons of the administration has taken place. Coincidental with Moscow's recent reversal in the "doctors' plot" is the announcement that Georgia's security chief, Rukhadze, had been arrested, along with others, for framing innocent people, "cooking up" provocative materials against honest citizens, and trying to incite national antagonism.

By a crude violation of Soviet Socialist laws, by trampling upon the rights of Soviet citizens and by all sorts of intrigues, Rukhadze and his accomplices tried to generate discontent among the Soviet people and excite a feeling of national hostility.

CPYRGHT

Russian text:

Grubym narusheniem sovetskikh sotsialisticheskikh zakonov, popranien prav sovetskikh grazhdan i vsyakogo roda koznyami, Rukhadze i ego pospeshniki staralis vyzvat nedovolstvie v sovetskom narode, pytalis razzhech chuvstvo natsionalnoy vrazhdy.

Mgeladze, until recently Georgia's Party leader is reported to have "contributed to Rukhadze's base deeds" by taking an active part in the arrest of "absolutely innocent people." Party secretary Charkviani is also referred to as having participated in the nefarious deeds of his superior, Mgeladze. Former chairman of the Council of Minister Ketskhoveli is listed in the new government as Minister for Light and Food Industry.

MISCELLANEOUS

Russian scientist Polotebnov, who died 45 years ago, was the first to make use of green molds for medicinal purposes, thereby paving the way for the discovery of penicillin, according to a TASS transmission to the provincial press on 15 April.

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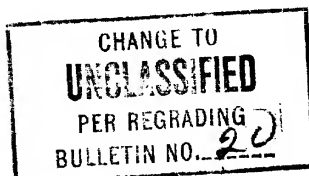
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SUMMARY

Attention to the ideological life of the country is almost equally divided among such aspects of it as the friendship of peoples, with some emphasis on Russo-Ukrainian relations, the treatment of Marxism-Leninism in universities and the application of that theory in the arts and sciences. The Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, frequently attacked in the past for its implicit de-emphasis of the superiority of the Great Russians and their literature, is now accused of remaining adamant in its attitude toward "the beneficial influence" of the Muscovites. Nor is the propaganda of the friendship theme maintained as it should be by a section of the Ukrainian press.

Some trouble in physiological sciences is implicitly admitted in Academician Biryukov's disclosure that certain noted scientists who had been purged and subsequently reinstated have not succeeded in wholly convincing the powers that be that they have really mended their "theoretical errors." A comparatively mild controversy still appears to revolve around the Pavlov theory which is reportedly not fully subscribed to by all scientists.

The familiar "no-conflict theory" (teoria bezkonfliktnosti) often resorted to by Soviet artist and writers as a hedge against possible criticism, ostracism or worse, is again referred to as a persistent "harmful manifestation" to be done away with at all costs if art and literature are to be raised above the level of mediocrity. Repeated also is the appeal to this section of the intelligentsia to shake off the old habit of portraying Soviet life as "completely harmonious," a description that belies the concept of socialist realism.

Materials on the current reorganization of the Georgian SSR Government reveal that it was preceded by an hitherto unpublicized purge of the local Party and State machinery. One of the casualties is Party boss Mgeladze who seldom missed an opportunity to denounce the "vicious practices" (porochnaya praktika) of the Georgian Party's Central Committee with whose disappearance in 1951 he presumably had something to do. Unlike the previous shake-up, however, this purge gets moderate publicity and is discussed in the context of national hostility, a "policy" said to have been pursued by some top officials including the Republic's state security chief Rukhadze. The latter, just like his counterpart in the "doctor's plot" Ryumin, is accused of having arrested innocent people on trumped-up charges with the avowed aim of creating national antagonism and tension. Mention is made also of "intimidation and beating" (zapugivanie i izbienie) employed by the security authorities for the purpose of extracting confessions.

What remains enigmatic in the Rukhadze case is that, according to a broadcast from Tbilisi, he was expelled from the Party for unstated reasons in June 1952, that is long before the arrest of the "poisoner-doctors" in Moscow was made public. Nothing had been heard of him or his malfeasance until shortly after the exposure of Ryumin in similar crimes. Mgeladze who is now linked with him in the "antistate activities" had apparently remained in his post of First Secretary of the Party until his "release" a few days before the Republican Party meeting.

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